

cases against civilians in military courts; and

Whereas, on July 25, 2017, the Organization of American States Secretary General Luis Almagro convened public hearings to review whether the Government of Venezuela has committed crimes against humanity and should be referred to the International Criminal Court: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its profound concern about the humanitarian impacts of the crisis suffered by the people of Venezuela, including widespread shortages of basic food commodities and essential medicines;

(2) urges President of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro to permit the delivery of international humanitarian assistance;

(3) calls on the Government of Venezuela to immediately release all political prisoners and to respect internationally recognized human rights;

(4) calls on the Government of Venezuela to ensure the neutrality and professionalism of all security forces and to respect the Venezuelan people's rights to freedom of expression and assembly;

(5) supports the Secretary General of the Organization of American States in his review of whether the widespread human rights abuses in Venezuela warrant an investigation by the International Criminal Court; and

(6) urges the President of the United States to provide full support for OAS efforts in examining the human rights situation in Venezuela and to instruct appropriate Federal agencies to hold officials of the Government of Venezuela accountable for violations of United States law and abuses of internationally recognized human rights.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of David J. Ryder, of New Jersey, to be Director of the Mint, and Isabel Marie Keenan Patelunas, of Pennsylvania, to be Assistant Secretary of Intelligence and Analysis, Department of the Treasury, dated December 20, 2017.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. in room SD-406 to conduct a hearing entitled "Freight Movement: Assessing Where We Are Now and Where We Need to Go".

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 489, 498, 509, 531, and 532; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Bruce D. Jette, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army; James E. McPherson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army; Randall G. Schriver, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; Thomas Harker, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy; and John P. Roth, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 571, 572, 573, 574, and 575.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Duane A. Kees, of Arkansas, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas for the term of four years; Stephen R. McAllister, of Kansas, to be United States Attorney for the District of Kansas for the term of four years; Ronald A. Parsons, Jr., of South Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota for the term of four years; Ryan K. Patrick, of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas for the term of four years; and Michael B. Stuart, of West Virginia, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia for the term of four years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc

with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kees, McAllister, Parsons, Patrick, and Stuart nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, on January 3, 2018, the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 508. I ask consent that there be 30 minutes of debate, equally divided in the usual form; that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD. I further ask that notwithstanding rule XXXI, the nomination be held in status quo into the second session of the 115th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar Nos. 560 through 569 and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Anthony J. Cotton

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Sharon A. Shaffer

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 8069:

To be brigadier general

Col. Robert J. Marks

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Ronald G. Allen, Jr.
Col. Mark R. August
Col. Charles E. Brown, Jr.
Col. Joel L. Carey
Col. Brenda P. Cartier
Col. Darren R. Cole
Col. Heath A. Collins
Col. Douglas S. Coppinger
Col. Matthew W. Davidson
Col. Todd A. Dozier
Col. Peter M. Fesler
Col. Eric H. Froehlich
Col. Michael A. Greiner
Col. Andrew P. Hansen
Col. Michelle L. Hayworth
Col. Thomas K. Hensley
Col. Stephen F. Jost
Col. Jeffrey R. King
Col. Leonard J. Kosinski
Col. Thomas E. Kunkel
Col. Laura L. Lenderman
Col. Rodney D. Lewis
Col. Robert K. Lyman
Col. David B. Lyons
Col. Michael E. Martin
Col. Joseph D. McFall
Col. David N. Miller, Jr.
Col. Christopher J. Niemi
Col. Clark J. Quinn
Col. George M. Reynolds
Col. Douglas A. Schiess
Col. David W. Snoddy
Col. Adrian L. Spain
Col. Ernest J. Teichert, III
Col. Alice W. Trevino

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Christopher G. Cavoli

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Nancy A. Norton

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Richard A. Brown

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Mitchel Neurock

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Hubert C. Hegtveldt
Brig. Gen. Timothy P. Kelly
Brig. Gen. Albert V. Lupenski
Brig. Gen. Samuel C. Mahaney
Brig. Gen. John B. Williams

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1296 AIR FORCE nomination of Arianne R. Morrison, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 1, 2017.

PN1297 AIR FORCE nomination of Richard A. Hanrahan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 1, 2017.

PN1298 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning ALECK A. BROWN, and ending JOHN D. RITTER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 1, 2017.

IN THE ARMY

PN1142 ARMY nomination of Jennifer A. Mahoney, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 16, 2017.

PN1143 ARMY nominations (2) beginning YON T. CHUNG, and ending MICHAEL B. PAYNE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 16, 2017.

PN1265 ARMY nominations (2) beginning NATHELE J. ANDERSON, and ending BRIAN R. HORTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2017.

PN1266 ARMY nominations (2) beginning THOMAS W. GREEN, and ending KENNETH M. KOOP, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2017.

PN1267 ARMY nomination of Adam R. Liberman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2017.

PN1268 ARMY nomination of Michael E. Steelman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2017.

PN1269 ARMY nomination of Gerald D. Gangaram, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2017.

PN1270 ARMY nomination of Brian R. Johnson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2017.

PN1271–1 ARMY nominations (18) beginning SCOTT T. AYERS, and ending TYESHA L. SMITH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2017.

PN1272 ARMY nomination of Peter J. Armstrong, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2017.

PN1273 ARMY nomination of Ali S. Zaza, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2017.

PN1274 ARMY nomination of Phillip T. Buckler, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2017.

PN1275 ARMY nomination of Vernice K. Favor-Williams, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2017.

PN1300 ARMY nomination of Heather M. Lee, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 1, 2017.

IN THE NAVY

PN1245 NAVY nominations (50) beginning WILLIAM L. ARNEST, and ending KAREN J. WOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 14, 2017.

PN1301 NAVY nomination of Sharif H. Calfee, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 1, 2017.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills en bloc: Calendar No. 124, S. 117 and Calendar No. 56, S. 501. I further ask unanimous consent that, where applicable, the committee-reported amendment be agreed to, the bills, as amended, if amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ALEX DIEKMANN PEAK DESIGNATION ACT OF 2017

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 117) to designate a mountain peak in the State of Montana as “Alex Diekmann Peak,” which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is shown in boldface brackets and the part of the bill intended to be inserted is shown in *italics*.)

S. 117

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Alex Diekmann Peak Designation Act of 2017”.

[SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

[Congress finds that Alex Diekmann—

[(1)] was a loving father of two and an adoring husband who lived in Bozeman, Montana, where he was a renowned conservationist who dedicated his career to protecting some of the most outstanding natural and scenic resource areas of the Northern Rockies;

[(2)] was responsible during his unique conservation career for the protection of more than 50 distinct areas in the States of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho, conserving for the public over 100,000 acres of iconic mountains and valleys, rivers and creeks, ranches and farms, and historic sites and open spaces;

[(3)] played a central role in securing the future of an array of special landscapes, including—